

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and Allowance of Claims 7-20 in view of the amendments presented above and the following arguments.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 7-13 and 17-20 were objected to because of informalities. These informalities have been addressed in the amendments herein as suggested by the Examiner. As a result, the Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 7-13 and 17-20 as to these informalities be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 6, 9-12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Field et al. (US # 5,637,174).

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 stand allowed .

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Claims 7-8, 13 and 17-20 were deemed allowable if rewritten. Applicants have rewritten these claims as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-5, and 7-20 remain pending in this case.

CLAIMS 7-20 ARE ALLOWABLE AS AMENDED AS INDICATED BY THE EXAMINER

Claims 7-8, 13 and 17-20 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7-8, 13 and 17-20 have been so amended and Applicants respectfully request allowance as indicated in the Office Action.

Additionally, dependent Claims 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 7, as now rewritten in independent form. As such,

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 9 - 12, 14 and 16 as depending from allowable independent Claim 7.

CITED BUT NON-APPLIED REFERENCES

The subsidiary references have been reviewed but are submitted to be less relevant than the relied upon references.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 7-20 in addition to currently allowed Claims 1-5. If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims, or that a conference might expedite allowance of the claims, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicant intends this to be a complete response. Other than the fees for adding new independent claims above three, no additional fee is believed due; however if any additional fee is due, please charge the deposit account number indicated on the transmittal letter.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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